

Eisenhower Church of Christ

The Offensive Christ

Galatians 5:11 speaks of “the offense of the cross.” To some in Corinth, nothing was as distasteful as the preaching of the crucified Savior. In Athens, Paul was mocked for preaching the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 17:12). Christ was a “rock of offense” among His people and in the Roman Empire (Romans 9:33). Why did Jesus offend so many?

He was despised in the region of Gadarenes because people there thought more of swine than of lost souls (Mark 5). The Master Teacher offended the Pharisees because of His blunt rebuke of their customs and traditions (Matthew 15:7-12). The absolute authority of the Lord caused a sword of separation within some families (Matthew 10:34-35). When Christ comes on the stage of life, the human scene must give attention to His claims. One cannot be neutral in regard to the Man of Nazareth. Jesus plainly reminds us in Matthew 12:30 that men are either “for or against” Him. But why was our blessed Redeemer such a controversial person?

His Perfection Made Others Uncomfortable

To be in the presence of the Son of God made anyone else’s fame pale into nothingness. His speech, action, attitude and endeavor formed a matchless framework of beauty. The scribes waned in power when Jesus unfolded the Scriptures. The Pharisees’ righteous pretense disintegrated in the purity of the Messiah. Arrogant claims of the Sadducees were put asunder by the clear logic of the Savior. Caesar and Herod were dwarfed by the heavenly countenance of the Redeemer. Since very few people enjoy being “upstaged,” Jesus was intently hated. Pilate realized that “for envy he had been delivered up” (Mark 15:10).

His Salvation Was Spiritual, Not Temporal

“Hosanna” had become a cry among the Jews by the time of Christ. Since the days of the Maccabees, it simply meant, “Save us, we pray.” Mark 11 tells of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. But however, brilliant the palm-strewn road may have seemed, our Redeemer was a disappointment to the Jews because He came not to save them from Rome, but to save sinners. He told Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36), and those coming to Him for loaves and fishes went away distraught.

He Embarrassed the Socially Elite

The Savior’s eating with sinners caused a revolt within the upper echelon of society (Mark 2; Luke 19). Jesus came “to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10), but the doctors of the law were upset with practical application of that maxim. It bothered them when the crowds came to hear him teach, because Jesus had not gone to their schools (John 7). The logic by which Christ nailed their hides to the wall was embarrassing (Mark 12:14; John 8:39-40). Jesus unveiled their evil hearts of selfishness in the person of the “older brother” (Luke 15:11-31), and their vain ritualistic piety in the story of the priest and Levite who “pass by on the other side” (Luke 10:27-37). No wonder they were offended! They could have repented, but that would have called for more humility than they could muster. Are there any sadder words in Scripture than John 1:11? “He came unto His own, but His own received Him not.” Rather than being offended in Jesus, may God help us to stand up for Him in the midst of a godless, decadent world.

It is hardly conceivable that Christ would have had as many enemies as He did. As our minds retrace the life He led, the pattern He set, we are amazed to recall the fact that many in His day rejected Him. How could anyone spurn such an unselfish love? Even though we cannot answer these questions, it remains a fact that thousands of His day turned a deaf ear to heaven’s will, expressed so capably in Jesus, the Son of God.

—Johnny Ramsey

Prayer Request

Hannah Weakland has requested prayers for her co-worker's father, **Philip Garza**, who will be undergoing tests to see if the growth he has is cancerous. Philip is in need of prayers.

Please keep in your prayers, the people in **Ukraine**, especially our Christian brethren, who are under attack from Russia. Please pray that these attacks end, and the people can return to their homes if it be God's Will.

Concerns Update

LaDonna Chism went home from the hospital on Wednesday, February 23rd. She is slowly improving. Keep LaDonna in your prayers.

The plans for **Ora McAfee** to move into Lincoln Towers did not work out. She is living with her nephews in Desoto, TX for now until something else can be arranged.

Patsy Mitchell's knee replacement surgery on the 22nd went well. She went home the next day. Patsy will have six weeks of physical therapy.

Prayer List

Dr. Hank Abrams; Sheila Alcazar; Wayne Anderson; Betty Branson; Bill and Mary Brown; Glenna Callendar; LaDonna Chism; Dana Erwin; Hattie Gilmore; Doug Guynn; Rosanna Herrera; Tiffany Horton; Lon Howard; Ora McAfee; Patsy Mitchell; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Cain Pilgrim; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Chasidy Rayos; Carlos Reyes; Daniel Reyes; Lisa Salas; Amanda Sarabia; Benny & Lajanna Simms; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Lisa Wells; Janet Wesson; Charles Wood; John Wood, Julia York.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Glenna Callendar; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ...

When Jesus spoke of "wolves in sheep's clothing" who was He referring to?

Last Week's Quiz Answer...

Ruth's first husband was Mahlon. (Ruth 4:10)

Events

Watch "***In Search of the Lord's Way***" Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Thoughts to Remember...

Don't let yesterday use up too much of today.

The man who believes he can do something is probably right, and so is the man who believes he can't. Hard work is often the easy work you didn't do at the proper time.

Mock; Delay; or Trust and Obey

Paul preached the truth to Greek philosophers and the judges of the Court of Areopagus (Acts 17). After contrasting the one true God with the idols of Athens, Paul warned them of the day when Jesus will judge the world and affirmed His resurrection from the dead (Acts 17:24-31).

Response to the Gospel in Athens fell into three categories which is seen in people's reactions today; Some mocked (Acts 17:32). Remember, Paul was dealing with Greeks who were well-versed in philosophy. The idea that a man named Jesus was killed, but arose from the dead, seemed like utter

foolishness to them (1 Corinthians 1:23). Many Greek philosophers did not believe in life after death at all. Bodily resurrection seemed so outlandish to them as to be worthy only of mockery.

Today, Biblical truth is often scorned by those with a high degree of worldly education. Paul declared that “not many wise according to the flesh” will believe and obey God’s Word (1 Corinthians 1:26). A modern example is the stream of ridicule directed against Christians for rejecting organic evolution.

The second response in Athens was delay: “We will hear you again on this matter” (Acts 17:32). Today, people still put off obeying the Gospel. This often results in permanent rejection of the way of salvation. Waiting until one understands the Gospel is necessary and counting the cost of a life-long commitment is wise. But once one realizes he is lost and knows how to be saved, putting it off is utter folly!

There was a third reaction in Athens: trust and obey. “However, some men joined him and believed” (Acts 17:34). As always in Scripture, the belief that pleases God is not mere mental acknowledgement, but trusting obedience. Dionysius, a judge on the Court of Areopagus, along with Damaris and some others who joined Paul were obedient believers.

God “is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). Mock; delay; or trust and obey. What is your choice?

—Joe Slater

March 6, 2022	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Oliver Hernandez	Jon Roemisch
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture	Steve Easlon	Larry May
Second Prayer	Jon Roemisch	Jeff Wesson
Closing Prayer	Gary Loving	Jacob Carson
Lords Supper		Bill Ryan
Scripture Reading:	<u>Don Easlon</u>	Communion
	Scot Straw	(In Library)
	Jackie Perkins	
	Jr. Munoz	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Allen Weakland 254-8209 —*Deacon:* Don Easlon 288-5834 *Pulpit:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332—*Table:* Bill Ryan 352-4871 —*Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990—*Recording Sermons:* John Wood 413-7444 — *Collections:* Bill Ryan 352-4871

Sunday AM

“Trust—Attitude of Faithfulness”
(II Thessalonians 3:1-5)

Sunday PM

“Spiritual Living”
(Galatians 6:1)

Our Records

Bible Class... 68
Morning Worship...94
Evening Worship ...NC
Wednesday...62
Contribution...\$4,045.00